

A TRUE PROFESSION

it's easy to despise our local
actors and actresses
since they spend so little time
on stage but
live their lives
waiting tables
from venice to west hollywood
downtown to simi valley
everywhere
i want to slap them around
bruise them up a bit
and say wake up
you're a waiter
be proud
of a noble profession
hard work
good tips
sometimes
and quit acting out bit parts
and routines on customers
serve them well
they'll treat you with respect
but the coffee never gets refilled
and entrees get carted out
before salads
by beautiful things
with straight white teeth and rock-hard
legs
on streets like melrose and beverly
waiting for the break
that might be a jaw or arm
if they slip up again
and keep screwing up my order

— Lawrence Welsh

Los Angeles CA

IMMACULATE CORRECTION

Walking home I see a huge tractor trailer
truck uniquely designed for hauling
luxury boats. On its magnificently chromed
side are inscribed the words, "Trucking
for Jesus." Its mud flap depictions
of the famous female nude silhouette
are softened with the addition of a
painstakingly trimmed powder blue
bathing suit.